

# **Chronic Wasting Disease Investigation Update**

Provided by the Animal Industry Division Michigan Department of Agriculture December 18, 2008

# **Background:**

The Michigan departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed the state's first case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a three-year old white-tailed deer from a privately owned cervid (POC) facility in Kent County on Monday, August 25, 2008. The disease investigation as to where or how CWD was transmitted to this animal has been inconclusive.

The state quarantined all POC facilities, prohibiting the movement of all – dead or alive – privately-owned deer, elk, or moose. POC quarantines have been systematically lifted as audits confirm compliance with rules, regulations, and disease surveillance.

### **Recent MDA Actions:**

Under the direction of MDA's Emergency Manager and with help from DNR staff, 27 MDA employees were trained in four days to audit POC facilities. Scheduling and cervid head pick-up conflicts allowed for 19 MDA staff to conduct inspections.

In less than two weeks, 112 facilities were contacted. Of 112 facilities, 77 confirmed they were in compliance with Public Act 190 and were visited by staff. The field audits resulted in the release of 50 quarantines. A total of 172 POC facilities have been released from quarantine to date.

Over 2,300 privately owned cervids have been tested for CWD; and all but the one in Kent County have been negative.

## **Disease Surveillance:**

Officials do not yet know how the deer may have contracted the disease. As of December 18, no other CWD positive animals have been found.

#### **DNR Actions:**

Report all Poaching (RAP) hotline calls are up 51% since last year. DNR issued 166 baiting violation citations in 2007 and to date, in 2008, they have issued 559.

DNR has tested over 8,000 free-ranging deer since January 2008; 4,000 of which have been since August 25, 2008.

There are 48 POC facilities in the process of de-commissioning. To date, 12 facilities have completed the process and have been de-commissioned.

### **Education and Outreach:**

Director Donald Koivisto updated Michigan Farm Bureau executives at their annual meeting on December 3, 2008.

Dr. Steven Halstead provided an update on CWD issues to the Natural Resources Commission on December 4, and the Agriculture Commission on December 8, 2008.